MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
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Landing Card and Tagging Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, Swordfish, Billfish and Sharks landed in Maryland, continued for 2016.

As part of the coastal effort to improve monitoring and estimates of recreational catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT), swordfish, billfish (white marlin, roundscale spearfish, blue marlin, and sailfish), and sharks (including common thresher, great and scalloped hammerhead, shortfin mako, blue shark, and smooth dogfish to name a few), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has designed a program to monitor these species landed at Maryland ports. This program continues to require mandatory reporting and tagging of all BFT, swordfish, billfish, and sharks landed by recreational fishermen in Maryland during the 2016 season. During this time a landing card and tag system will be utilized.

New for 2016: There are 2 new additions to all landing cards this year. The first addition is a box to indicate the number of live releases and second box is for the number of dead releases; both are relevant to the type of landing card. There is no penalty for dead releases. This information will assist the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) meet a reporting requirement to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The following procedures will be used in Maryland during this period:

1. No private vessel recreational anglers or charterboat/headboats can fish for or keep an Atlantic bluefin tuna, swordfish or billfishes without first obtaining an HMS permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

2. All successful anglers are required to complete a Maryland Bluefin Tuna Landing Card; Maryland Billfish Landing Card; or Maryland Shark Landing Card. Landing cards can be obtained from Maryland DNR (MDNR) approved reporting stations; return the card(s) to one of the MDNR approved reporting stations in the Ocean City area to obtain a landing tag. This tag must be affixed to the BFT, swordfish, billfish, or shark prior to its removal from the vessel. Those BFT, swordfish, billfish, or shark on board trailered vessels will be required to have the tag affixed to the fish before the vessel can be removed from the water. If you land a shark on the beach, please take it to the nearest reporting station to get a card and tag. Landing cards will also be available from the MDNR Oceanside Field Station in Ocean City, MD (410) 213-1531.

3. The Landing Card will require a minimum amount of time to complete. The edge on all landing cards includes a receipt that can be removed for the permit holder. Updated PDFs of the catch cards are available for downloading at http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/tagging.aspx.

4. Reporting During Regular Business Hours**:**
   Maryland approved BFT/Swordfish/billfish/shark reporting stations:
   1. Atlantic Tackle, Ocean City, MD   (410) 213-0421 (Formerly Ake Marine)
   2. Bahia Marina, Ocean City, MD   (410) 289-7438
   3. Fisherman's Marina, Ocean City, MD   (410) 213-2478
   4. Ocean City Fishing Center, Ocean City, MD   (410) 213-1121
   5. Talbot Street Pier & Marina, Ocean City, MD   (410) 289-9125
   6. White Marlin Marina, Ocean City, MD   (410) 289-6470
   7. Sunset Marina, Ocean City, MD   (410) 213-9600
   8. Pines Point Provisions and Seafood, Ocean Pines, MD   (410) 641-2248

   Maryland approved shark-only reporting stations:
   1. Buck's Place: 11848 Assateague Rd. Berlin, MD 21811 (443) 513-4661
   2. Alltackle: 12826 B Ocean Gateway Ocean City, MD 21842 (410) 213-2840

   After-Hours Reporting:
   After-hours reporting kiosk at: MDNR Oceanside Field Station, 12917 Harbor Road, Ocean City, MD. Tear off the receipt (you keep) after writing the same information on it as the card. Place the card into the locked box. This receipt serves the same function as a tag. Use this kiosk only when the marinas are closed. (*No Tags will be available at the kiosk.)

Identification Information:
Tuna: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/tunas/documents/hms_tunas_id_guide_aug_2012.pdf.
Atlantic swordfish and billfish: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/billfish/documents/hms_swo_billfish_id_guide_aug_2012.pdf.
Sharks: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/sharks/shark_id_placard.pdf. **Dusky, sandbar, and many other species of sharks are prohibited. If you cannot identify the species, you must release it**.

To learn more about this program, please visit: http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/tagging.aspx.